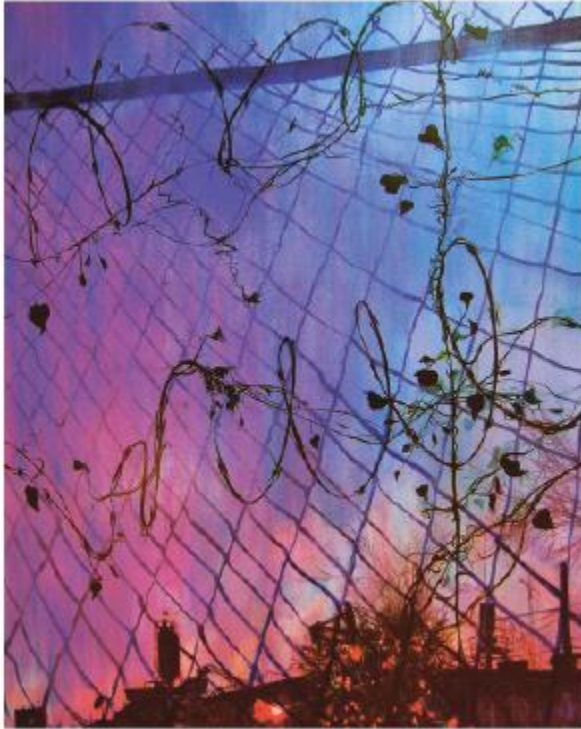


## Williamsburg Greenpoint Arts + News

### Trent's Top Gallery Picks / May 2010

By TRENT MORSE



Deborah Brown's "Vine," 2009, Photos courtesy of the artist and Storefront

#### **DEBORAH BROWN, "THE BUSHWICK PAINTINGS"**

[Storefront](#)

16 Wilson Ave. through 5/16

Bushwick, in general, conjures images of bulky warehouses and derelict factories, cyclone fences and concrete walls. Deborah Brown's paintings of the neighborhood enliven such scenery with spiraling foliage and skies the color of Easter eggs. Brown works by making plein-air drawings around Bushwick and posting the pictures on her studio walls. She then extracts details from the drawings—utility lines, razor wire, the tops of factories—and places them in her paintings. These scenes could potentially be of any industrial district in any American town, but they are distinctively Bushwick. Oftentimes, subtly painted objects make themselves visible only after two or three viewings. "Birds and Bags" seems a straightforward enough view, from the angle of a passerby peering skyward, of a tree shedding its summer leaves. Upon closer inspection, these "leaves" turn out to be little birds intermingling with plastic bags caught in the branches. Through her poetic brushwork and delicious color palette, Brown transforms forlorn vistas into places of beauty.